



H. The Flower Garden

Continue on Lovers' Walk, cross Bridge Street and along to the Flower Garden (H) with pleached lime avenues. Continue to the end of the gardens, turn left then left again up the opposite river bank river and cross Waterhouse Street at the pedestrian crossing into Bank Court (J).*

Walk through to Marlowes and to the tall Waterplay sculpture immediately ahead which has an inscription about Geoffrey Jellicoe and the Water Gardens on the plinth (K, right).



Turn right to see the Resident's Rainbow and British Legion Garden of Remembrance (L). Retrace steps and continue to walk north along Marlowes to the junction with Bridge Street (M) to see the Development of Man mural above the charity shop and the Tree of Life Sculpture nearby. Continue northwards, walking up the ramp and along the raised path to the junction with Hillfield Road noting the plaques in the paving celebrating aspects of the town's industries. The Rowland Emmett tiled mosaic map (N) can be seen on the side of the NCP car park. Cross Hillfield Road and continue along Marlowes to the junction and then cross Queensway.



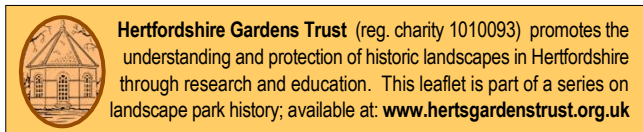
The Bury and the remaining lodge (P) for Gadebridge Park are on the left of the park entrance. Head for Charter Tower (R, left) with the walled garden. Leave via a gate in the west wall and continue along the path as far as St. Mary's churchyard (S).** Walk through to the Old High Street, turn left and continue. Ignore the kissing gate in the park wall and enter the park via the next entrance. A small lodge was originally sited to the left of these gates. The footpath now follows the line of the original drive from the Old High Street to the site of Gadebridge House (T). Follow the footpath, cross the Chinese bridge and return to car park. P

* From here the route can be varied by continuing along the riverbank to Combe Street, then turning left to re-join the main route at the Forum.

** At this point the route can be shortened by continuing on the path back to the car park.



T. Gadebridge House (right) in the early 19th century



HGT 30th Anniversary Walks Gadebridge Park and Jellicoe Water Gardens



J. Jellicoe Water Gardens

The Walk is a circuit of just under 4 miles mainly on level, surfaced paths. There is a short walk uphill from Leighton Buzzard Road (B440) to Trouvere Park. Low-lying ground along the Gade in Gadebridge Park can be muddy in wet weather.

Parking in the free car park P in Gadebridge Lane, off the A4146. OS Explorer Map 182.

Refreshments The Marchmont Arms, HP1 3AT, various cafes and pubs in Hemel Hempstead town centre and Old High Street. There are seats and picnic tables in Gadebridge Park and seating throughout the Jellicoe Water Gardens.

Public Toilets in Gadebridge Park and the Marlowes Centre.

In the 16th century, Gadebridge House was a farmhouse owned by the Combe family. In the 18th century the house and estate were in the hands of the Tower family, and in 1811 purchased by Astley Paston Cooper (1768-1841), an eminent physician made a baronet by George IV in 1821 after removing a cyst from the king's scalp. The

house and estate were improved and extended by members of the Paston Cooper family until the death of the 3rd baronet in 1904. Some 300 acres of the estate were purchased by the borough council in 1952 to create a public park. The house was demolished in the 1960s.

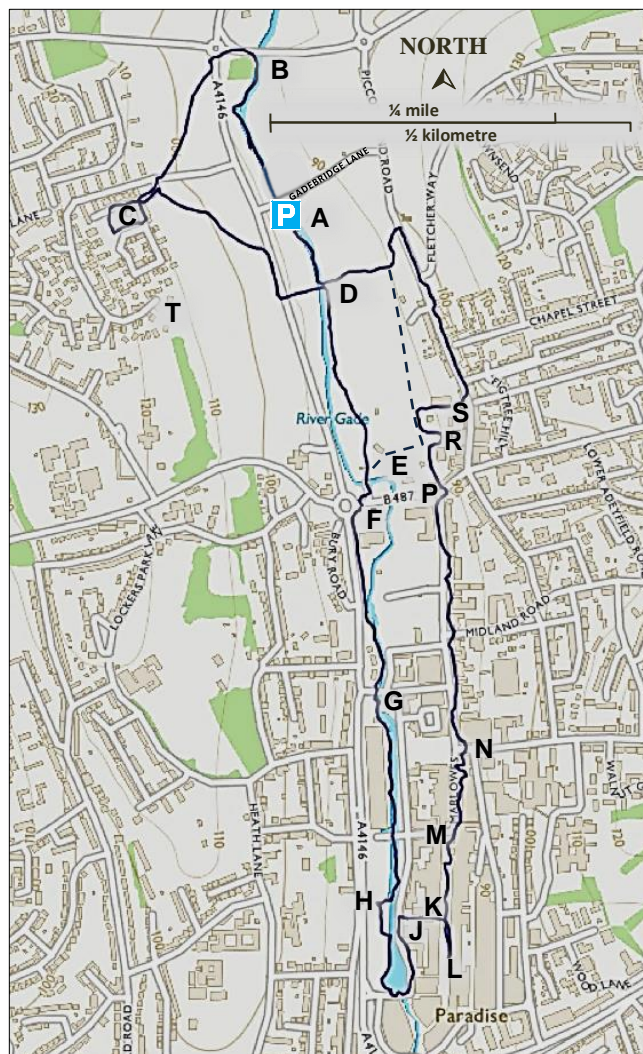


C. *Trees in the former Pleasure Garden*

Start from the entrance to the car park, cross Gadebridge Lane and head north towards Link Road along the footpath beside the Gade chalk stream. The bridge on the right (**A**) was built in 1915 to aid the movement of troops to and from the army training camp sited on the hilltop in the park.

To the left, approximately at the junction of Gadebridge Lane and Leighton Buzzard Road, is the site of The Round House. This was the 3rd estate lodge occupied by estate workers at various times, e.g. the gamekeeper.

Turn left onto Link Road (**B**), and cross Leighton Buzzard Road at the island crossing. Head diagonally left and uphill across the parkland to Gadebridge Lane; cross, then turn left into Trouvere Park / Lyrical Way to see the remnants of the pleasure grounds (**C**).



Retrace steps towards Gadebridge Lane, turn right and head diagonally down through the parkland, heading towards the church spire. Go through the underpass, cross the recently restored Chinese bridge (**D**), turn right and walk along the riverbank towards the bowls club. *If the riverbank is too muddy continue along the tarmac path, turn right at the fork (dashed line) and right again just by the Charter Tower (**R**).* Follow the path to re-join the main route at the bowls club and car park.

Historically, Mr Ginger's Water Garden and water cress beds were sited in this low-lying area of the park. The Bury, Mr Ginger's Villa is on the left (**E**). Leave the park via the car park, cross Queensway (**F**), take the path along Leighton Buzzard Road and fork left to walk beside the Gade. Cross Combe Street and enter the Water Gardens (**G**).



G. *Lovers Walk in the Water Gardens*

Designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and opened in 1962 the gardens are on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest as 'an early instance of Jellicoe using landscape design to explore allegory and the sub-conscious'. The gardens resemble a tamed serpent laid out along the canalised river Gade, with a flower-garden howdah strapped to its back by graceful pedestrian bridges. These connect the smooth lawned underbelly to the scaly back which is laid out as a meandering Lovers Walk through shrubs. The serpent's tail is flipped round a mound at the northern end, whilst the lake to the south forms the head, with a fountain eye, and a weir for its mouth.

